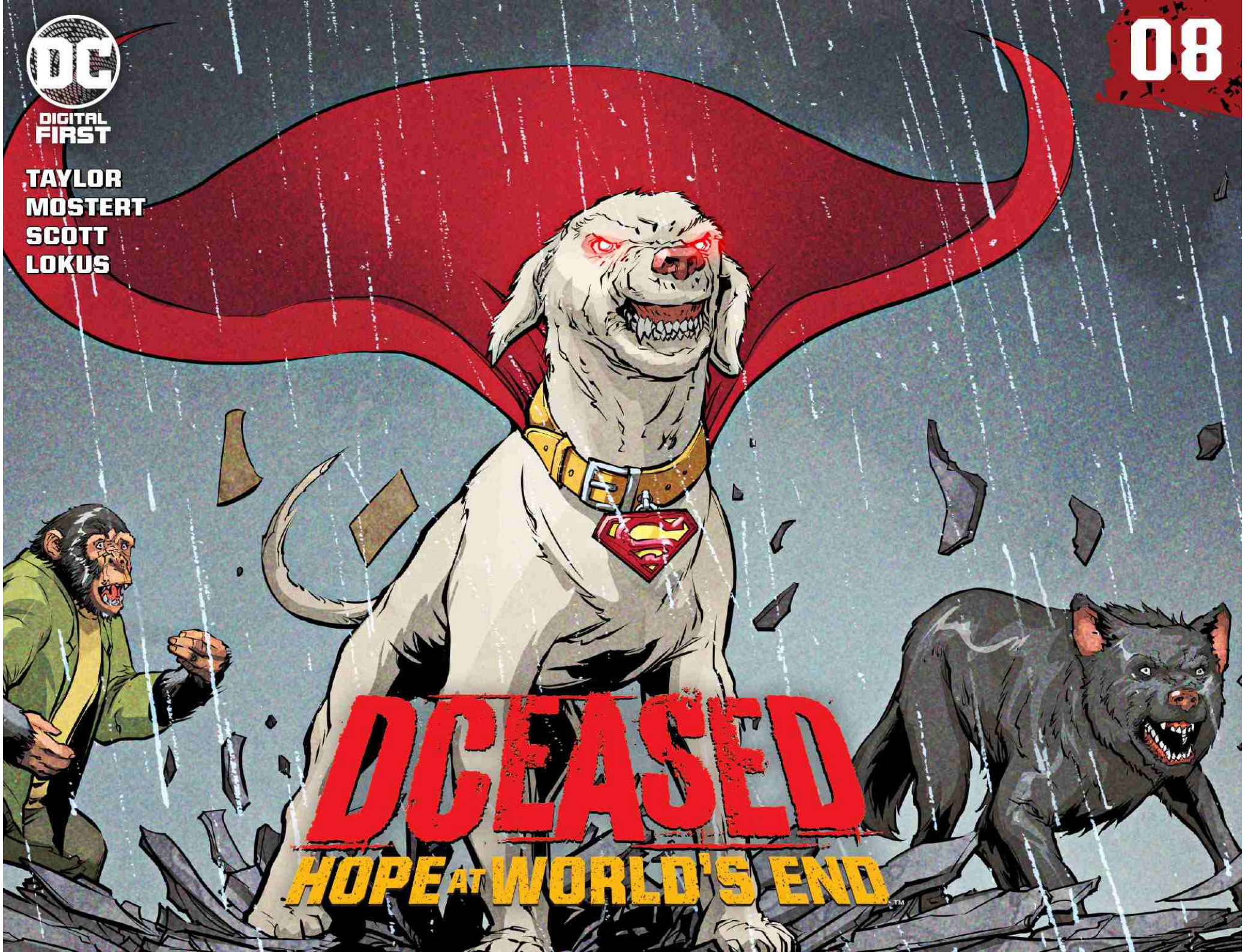
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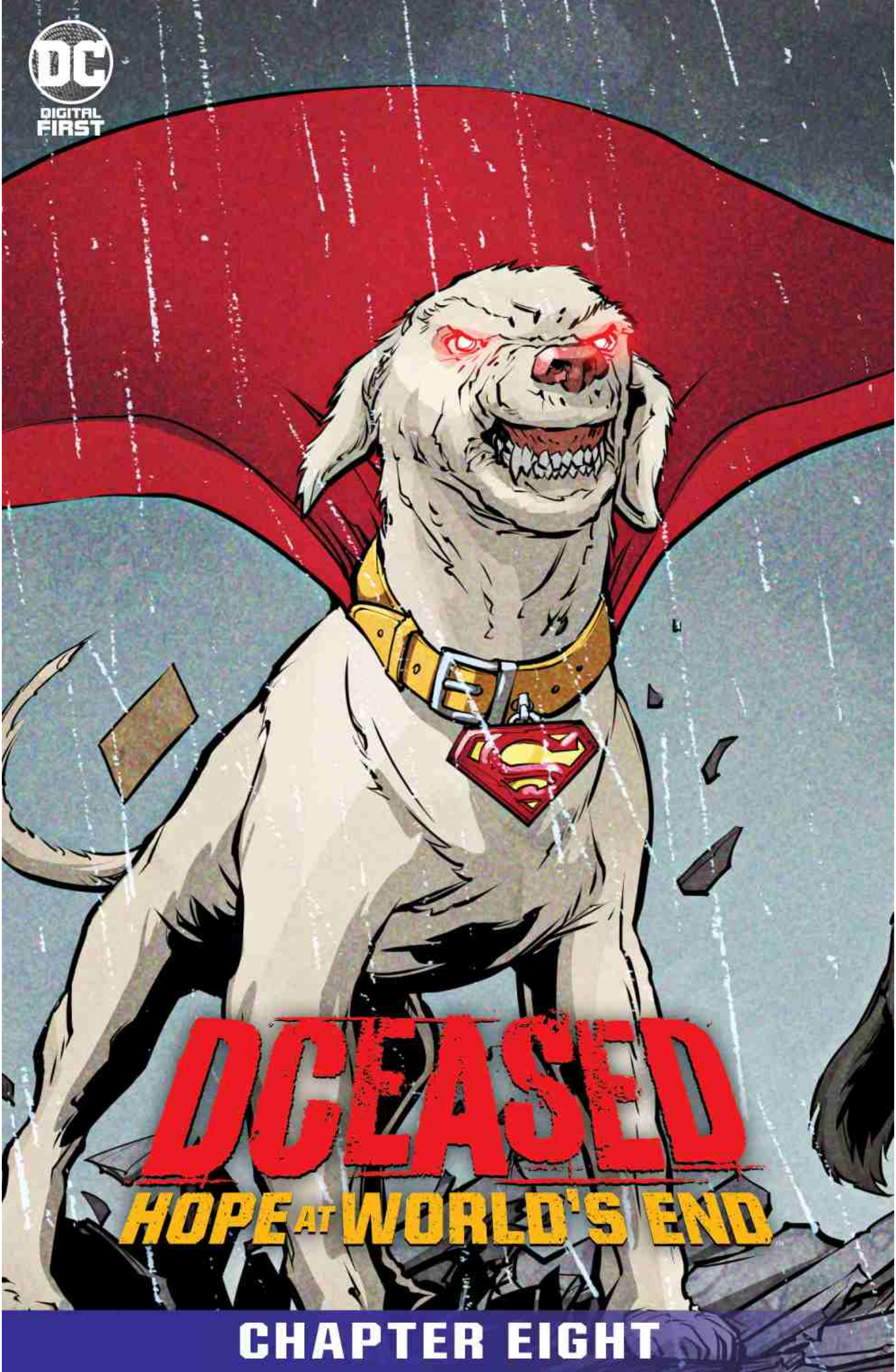
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CHAPTER EIGHT

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"THERE WAS A GIRL WHO LOST A HORSE.
"IT FELL.
"AND WHEN IT FELL, IT WAS BROKEN.
HMMM.
"THE GIRL WAS WITH OTHERS.

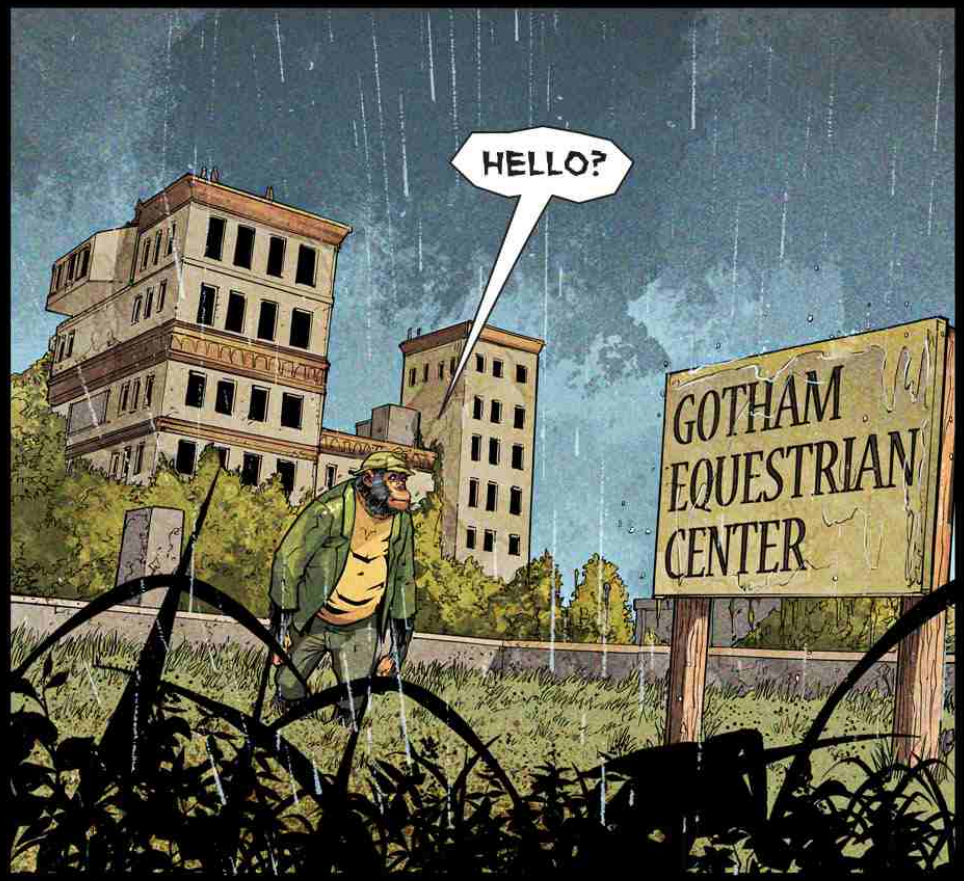
"SHE WAS RUNNING FOR A BUS.
"SHE TRIED TO GET HER HORSE BACK.
"AND SHE WAS LEFT BEHIND.
"BUT SHE WASN'T ALONE."

HRRR.
"FORTUNATELY, NOT EVERYONE LEFT HER BEHIND.
"SOMEONE NOTICED SHE WAS GONE."
AGH!
"A DOG."
RRR!!
"A VERY FORMIDABLE DOG.
"A DOG NAMED ACE."
ACE

ACE! GOOD DOGGY!
"ACE DRAGGED HER OUT OF THERE.
GRRRR!
"HE LED HER TO A BUILDING."
PABLE
VAGUE

"WHICH IS WHERE I FOUND THEM."
IT'S OKAY, ACE.
I'M NOT GOING TO HURT HER.
RRRR!
NO?
NO.
ARE YOU... ARE YOU TALKING TO THE DOG?
YES. I'M BOBO. HE SAYS YOUR NAME IS AMY.
YOU'RE A MONKEY.
I'M A CHIMPANZEE. AND A DETECTIVE.

WERE YOU GOING TO THE GARDEN?
YES.
ME, TOO. WHY DON'T WE ALL GO TOGETHER.
I SAW SOMEONE OUT THERE WHO MIGHT BE ABLE TO HELP US.
I JUST NEED TO GO DOWN THERE AND TALK TO THEM.
ACE. WILL YOU HEAR ME IF I'M DOWN THERE?
WILL HEAR.
OKAY. AMY, WHEN ACE MOVES, MOVE WITH HIM.


HELLO?
GOTHAM EQUESTRIAN CENTER

HELLO.

"THERE WAS A HORSE WHO LOST A GIRL."

"SHE FELL.
AGHH!!
"AND WHEN SHE FELL, SHE WAS BROKEN.
CRKK
ACE. BRING AMY, PLEASE.

I'M SORRY.
WAS SHE A GOOD HUMAN?

SHE WAS.

IT'S OKAY, AMY. YOU CAN COME OVER.
THIS IS COMET. SHE REALLY WANTS TO MEET YOU.

HELLO, COMET.
SHE SAYS SHE LIKES YOU.
I LIKE HER, TOO.
=SNF=
YOU SMELL SOMETHING?
DEATH. MOVING.
AMY, JUMP ON! HOLD ON TIGHT!!

"AND WE WERE OFF."
GRRR

AAGH!
SHULK
SCRATCH
HNNG

GET OFF. STAY AWAY!
AMY! IT'S OKAY.
WHY AREN'T YOU LIKE THEM? WHY HAVEN'T YOU TURNED?
BECAUSE THIS WAS AN EQUATION DREAMED UP BY GODS. AND GODS ARE NOTORIOUSLY ARROGANT.
THEY DON'T THINK OF ANIMALS AS SENTIENT.
WHICH IS PRETTY STUPID. BECAUSE IF YOU REALLY WANTED AN UNSTOPPABLE LIVING-DEATH VIRUS...
...THE OBVIOUS THING TO DO IS STICK IT IN MOSQUITOES.
"FOR THE WORLD'S GREATEST DETECTIVE...

"...I REALLY SHOULD HAVE BEEN MORE OBSERVANT.
"I SHOULD HAVE SEEN THE ATTACK COMING BEFORE IT WAS TOO LATE."

"THERE WAS A GIRL. AND A HORSE.
"THEY FELL."
COMET. GET UP! PLEASE.
PLEASE...
"AND THEN, THEY WERE OUT OF TIME.

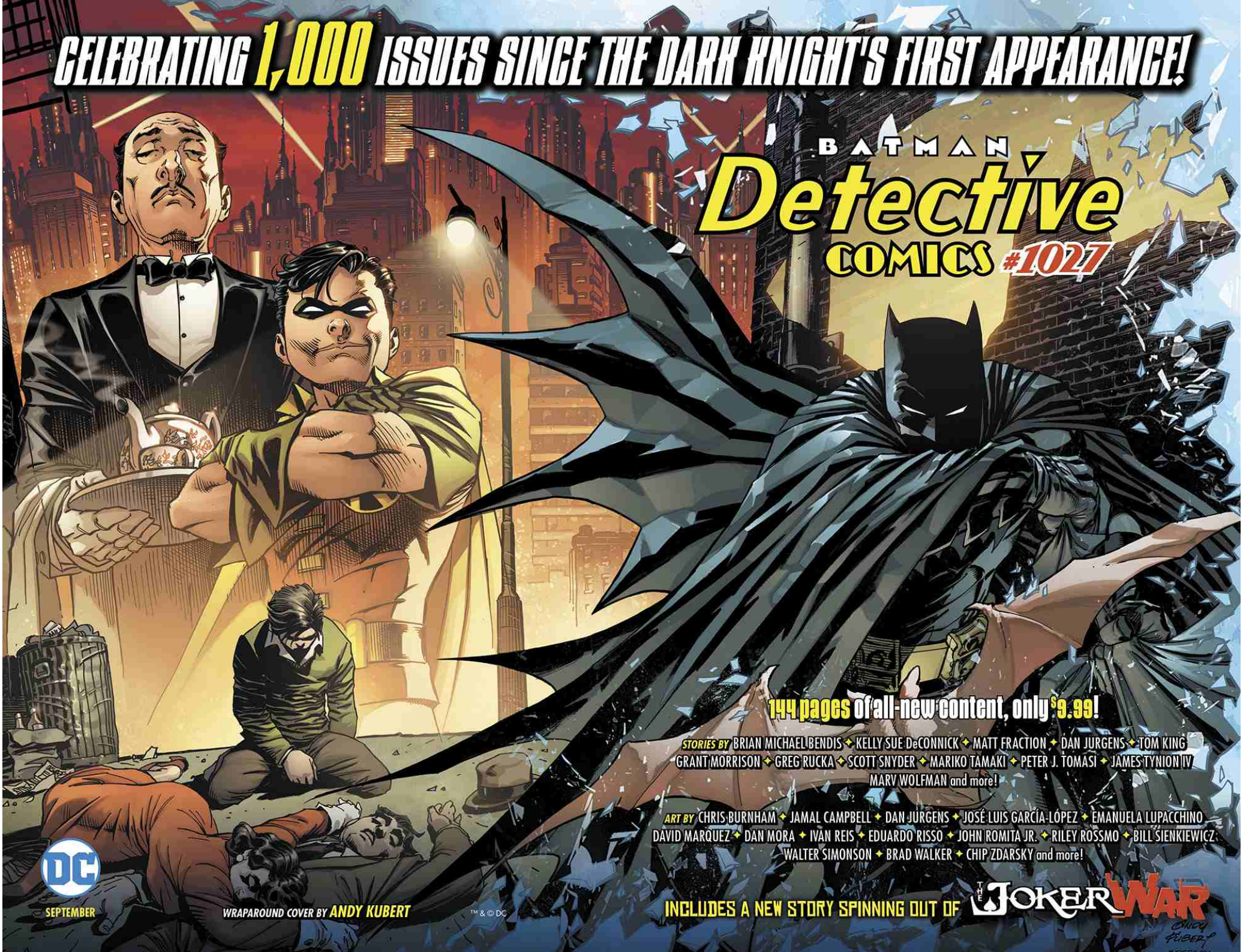
"I THOUGHT WE ALL WERE."
ARF! ARF! ARF!
WHAT--? WHAT DID YOU SAY?
GROOOO!
FLYING?
"WHICH JUST GOES TO SHOW..."

"...I DON'T KNOW EVERYTHING."
KOOM
CHZZZZT

YOU LIVE?
YES. I LIVE. THANK YOU.
HOLD ON.
STILL GUARDING?
STILL GUARDING.
GOOD DOG.

CLEAR PATH.
"THERE WAS A GIRL WHO LOST A HORSE. AND A HORSE WHO LOST A GIRL.
"THEY FELL TOGETHER.
"BUT THEY WEREN'T BROKEN.

"THEY HELD EACH OTHER TOGETHER."
NEXT: THE CALM BEFORE THE STORM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